

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

Post: New Delhi

FSSAI sets deadline for license applications

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

Exporter Guide

Product Brief

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Report Highlights:

On October 12, 2012, The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published an office memorandum informing food importers that they must file an application requesting an FSSAI license by December 4, 2012. As the licensing process takes a minimum of 60 days, all importers must apply for a license by this date to obtain a license by February 4, 2013. Starting February 5, 2013, food importers must have a license to conduct business.

General Information:

Introduction:

On October 12, 2012, The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published an office memorandum informing food importers that they must file an application requesting an FSSAI license by December 4, 2012. As the licensing process takes a minimum of 60 days, all importers must apply for a license by this date to obtain a license by February 4, 2013. Starting February 5, 2013, food importers must have a license to conduct business.

Background:

India's [Food Safety and Standards \(Licensing and Registration\) Regulations, 2011](#) requires all food business operators to obtain a license or register according to the procedures established by the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006 (Chapter 2, clause 2.1). A food business operator cannot engage in commercial activity without a valid FSSAI license. Schedule I of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) Regulations, 2011 provides a list of food business that are under the Central Licensing Authority. Food businesses that are not covered under Schedule I will be under the concerned State or Union Territory licensing authority.

The list of food businesses that are covered by the Schedule I Central Licensing Authority includes:

1. Dairy units including milk chilling units equipped to handle or process more than 50,000 liters of liquid milk/day or 2500 MT of milk solid per annum.
2. Vegetable oil processing units and units producing vegetable oil by the process of solvent extraction and refineries including oil expeller units having installed capacity more than 2 MT per day.
3. All slaughter facilities equipped to slaughter more than 50 large animals or 150 or more small animals including sheep and goats or 1000 or more birds per day.
4. Meat processing units equipped to handle or process more than 500 kg of meat per day or 150 MT per annum.
5. All food processing units other than mentioned under (I) to (IV) including relabellers and repackers having installed capacity more than 2 MT/day except grains, cereals and pulses milling units.
6. All Export Oriented Units.
7. All Importers importing food items including food ingredients and additives for commercial use.
8. All food business operators manufacturing any article of food containing ingredients or substances or using technologies or processes or combination thereof whose safety has not been established through

these regulations or which do not have a history of safe use or food containing ingredients which are being introduced for the first time into the country.

9. Food Business Operator operating in two or more states.

10. Food catering services in establishments and units under Central government Agencies like Railways, Air and airport, Seaport, Defence, etc.

The full text of the FSSAI office memorandum is given below and can be accessed through the FSSAI website [http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Import_License\(12-10-2012\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Import_License(12-10-2012).pdf). For further details on licensing, please also refer to the following GAIN Reports.

IN2104	FSSAI Extends Time Period on Renewal of Licenses and Registration
IN2004	FSSAI Launches an Online Licensing and Food Import Clearance System

File No. 1(4)2011/License/FSSAI-Part-I
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
3rd & 4th Floor, FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road
New Delhi – 110002

Date: 12.10.2012

Office Memorandum

Subject: Importers to take license before 4th December, 2012 – reg.

As per the order issued regarding amendment in FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011; the extended time for obtaining license is 4th February, 2013. Since licensing process takes 60 days at the minimum, all Importers should file their applications by 4th December, 2012 at the latest.

Section 25 of FSS Act, 2006 clearly states that "no person shall import to India any article of food in contravention of any other provision of this Act or of any rule or regulation made thereunder or any other Act". Section 31(1) of FSS Act, 2006 states that no person can commence or carry on any food business except under a License/ Registration.

All importers must apply for issuance of license as provided under the Act immediately if it has not been done earlier. However, importers will have to apply for license before 4th December, 2012 failing which import will not be allowed from 5th December, 2012 as the licensing processing takes 60 days for processing as provided under the Licensing & Registration regulations.



(Dr. D.S. Yadav)
DD (Enf-II)

To:

1. All Directors, FSSAI
2. All Authorized Officers, FSSAI

Copy To:

1. PS to CEO
2. FSSAI's Website